

much pains to bring to Perrot's notice. Very likely the grand chief, and perhaps Perrot as well, felt impressed with the importance of the lead mines as a place of future resort and commerce alike to the red man and the white. Wherever the enterprising traders penetrated with their French "fusils"—so great an improvement on the ancient bow and arrow—a constant demand was necessarily created for lead. Thus, it will be seen, that this locality opposite the Dubuque lead mines was a most suitable one for a trading establishment made at the instance of the grand chief of the Miamis. These Miamis seem to have made frequent removals; for, not very long thereafter, we find a hundred of them "on the Wisconsin," while the rest had gone to the Chicago country, on account of the beaver.¹

That this "*new fort*," made by Perrot below the Wisconsin, in 1690, was not Fort St. Nicholas, is sufficiently evident from the fact, that this latter post is indicated as in existence at least two years earlier, as proven by Franquelin's map of 1688, and by the fact that it was represented by its commandant, Bois-Guillot, a year before the founding of this new establishment, at Perrot's notable ceremony of taking possession of the Upper Mississippi country, at Fort St. Antoine, near the foot of Lake Pepin, in May, 1689.

Second French Fort at Prairie du Chien

While the date of the first permanent French settlement at Prairie du Chien is clouded with uncertainty, it may be mentioned, in this connection, that the time of the location of the Fox Indians there—including, no doubt, the Des Chiens family among them—can be more readily determined. Carver, who visited this region in 1766, states that he learned from the Indians, that about thirty years before his visit, they were located in a large town, in a pleasant situation on the Wisconsin, about five miles above its mouth—apparently at what is now Wright's Ferry, the ruins of which old settlement the Captain saw. Here the Indians had, or thought they had, a warning from the Great Spirit, to quit their habitations. They then removed to what is

¹ Neill's *Concise History*, p. 22, note.